Annual Report of the Faculty Committee on Research

Faculty Council presentation April 24, 2009

Research Committee 2008-09

Through 2009
Aysenil Belger (Medicine)
Anne Skelly (Nursing)
Michael. B. Jarstfer (Pharmacy)

Through 2010
Kenneth Bollen (Sociology)
(Committee Chair)

Through 2011
Kerry Bloom (Biology)
Martin Doyle (Geography)
David Margolis (Medicine)
Eileen Parsons (Education)

Tony Waldrop (Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development), Ex-Officio

The Committee met twice during the Fall 2008 semester and three times in the Spring 2009 semester prior to reporting to the Faculty Council. This year's focus was on barriers to doing interdisciplinary or cross-disciplinary collaborative research at UNC-CH. We explored several issues, but eliminated those on which other university committees were working (e.g., tenure criteria). Our chosen issue was to investigate means of developing ways in which we could more easily identify faculty and researchers with expertise in specified areas and to locate resources (e.g., equipment, labs, and software) on campus that would meet the research needs of others at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Similarly, it would be helpful to have a searchable system that would enable students and faculty to locate courses on particular topics regardless of the department. For instance, there are a number of methodology or theory courses that might be of interest to a diverse group, but currently it is difficult to locate them and when they are taught.

Finally, it would be worthwhile to have a system that matches researchers and research assistants (RAs). A student could register on such a system listing skills, interests, and experiences that they have and a faculty recruiter could search the list for a match. Or a researcher could list a job opportunity and students could search for appropriate openings.
Having this information readily available would address several problems we face on campus. For instance, suppose that you are a researcher in environmental studies with an interest in the human environmental impact in rural settings. Researchers in this area are dispersed throughout the campus and it would be very difficult to find out who shared this interest. Or suppose a state agency or a newspaper reporter wanted information on health disparities. It would be helpful to have a list of UNC-CH faculty and researchers with those interests. Students are often looking for courses or research opportunities. A searchable list of course offerings for the semester and RA positions would be an invaluable asset.

It was our good fortune to find out that Andy Johns’ (Associate Vice Chancellor for Research) group was developing an information system along with RENCI and others to accomplish some of the above goals of the University Research Committee. We met with Andy Johns several times and were tremendously impressed by the work.

This system, as it is presently designed, allows a user to search by a research topic (disorder, disease, condition, procedure, population, etc) or by an individual researcher to retrieve a representation of expertise for that individual researcher or topic. The search draws from data that has been collected and aggregated from existing research processes such as grant preparation/submission, intellectual property disclosure and patenting, clinical trials as well as several public repositories of academic publications.

The tool can also be used to help determine where researchers are performing their research. An example would be if an end user wanted to identify all locations within the United States where UNC researchers were conducting diabetes research. The system would enable this type of search and display a map of the results.

The best way to understand the power of this system is to see a demonstration. We have arranged for Andy Johns to do that at the April 2009 meeting of the Faculty Council. We also include an appendix of screen shots of the system as part of this report.

The features of the system are impressive. The planned improvements and expansion to other fields besides medicine and the natural sciences are just as remarkable. Although the current system only includes data for research in the life sciences, work is already underway to expand the system to the basic sciences, social sciences and the arts & humanities. With proper funding, it would be possible to have the basic sciences included in this repository by late 2009 and social sciences could follow in early 2010. The Arts & Humanities would follow.

The main challenge to completion of this work is that this is not a formal project that has been allocated resources to proceed. There are many competing priorities, and without proper funding, this project can only progress when resources are available to focus on
it. In the present environment of tight budgets and more than ample workload, this unfortunately translates into little ‘bandwidth’ available to advance it. The University Research Committee recommends that UNC-CH take the necessary steps to make this a formally commissioned university project with some budget/resources allocated to advancing it. Specifically, we recommend that

• The university officially commissions this project, providing budget/resources to advance the work.

• Appoint a project director to advance the development and maintenance of this system.

• Form an Advisory Board representative of the UNC-Chapel Hill community to help guide the work on the project.

Appendix: Screen Shots from Searchable Data Base that is being built begins on next page.
20 Experts found
- Bangdiwala, Shrikant I
- Chambless, Lloyd E
- Maeda, Nobuyo
- Couper, David J
- Rosamond, Wayne D
- Pomp, Daniel
- Nakamura, Jun
- Ammerman, Alice S
- Vupputuri, Suma
- Jennette, John C
- Beck, James D
- Catellier, Diane J
- Prazma, Jiri
- Berry, Diane C
- Clarke-Pearson, Daniel L
- Runge, Marschall S
- Keagy, Blair A
- Samuel-Hodge, Carmen D
- Weinberger, Morris
- Patterson, Winston Campbell (Cam) C

Your search terms
- Diabetes Complications
- Hypertension
- Obesiy

Refine search by adding Concepts

Disorders
- Coronary Disease
- Atherosclerosis
- Overweight
- Body Mass Index

Chemicals & Drugs
- Smoke
- Blood Coagulation Factors
- Lipoprotein(a)
- Factor VIII
- von Willebrand Factor
- Fibrinogen
- Cholesterol, HDL

Procedures
- Nutrition Surveys
- Risk Assessment
- Education
Ammerman, Alice S

**Disorders**
- Cardiovascular Diseases
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Obesity

Ammerman Alice; Leung May May; Cavallo David

**Addressing disparities in the obesity epidemic.**
- Show Abstract

Perrin Eliana Miller; Flower Kori B; Garrett Joanne; Ammerman Alice S

**Preventing and treating obesity: pediatricians' self-efficacy, barriers, resources, and advocacy.**
- Show Abstract

Perrin Eliana M; Flower Kori B; Ammerman Alice S

**Pediatricians' own weight: self-perception, misclassification, and ease of counseling.**
- Show Abstract

Katz Mira L; Gordon-Larsen Panny; Bentley Margaret E; Kelsey Kristine; Shields

**Activities & Behaviors**
- Food Habits
- Motor Activity
- Life Style
- Program Evaluation
- Exercise
- Attitude to Health
- Community-Institutional Relations
- Health Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice
- Risk Reduction Behavior
- Needs Assessment
- Program Development
- Health Behavior
- Outcome Assessment (Health Care)
- Physician's Role
- Consumption
- Social Support
- Physician's Practice Patterns
- Patient Compliance
- Alcohol Drinking
- Emigration and Immigration
- Cooperative Behavior
- Communication
- Mail
- Smoking
1. **2008**: Robinson Whitney R; Poole Charles; Godley Paul A
   *Systematic review of prostate cancer's association with body size in childhood and young adulthood.*
   Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina, CB# 7435, McGavran-Greenberg, Chapel Hill, NC, 27599-7435, USA, whitney_robinson@unc.edu.

2. **2008**: Peppercorn Jeffery; Buss William G; Fost Norm; Godley Paul A
   *The dilemma of data-safety monitoring: provision of significant new data to research participants.*
   Division of Hematology/Oncology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7305, USA. jpepper@med.unc.edu

3. **2008**: Carpenter William R; Robinson Whitney R; Godley Paul A
   *Getting over testosterone: postulating a fresh start for etiologic studies of prostate cancer.*

4. **2008**: Castel Liana D; Saville Benjamin R; Depuy Verita; Godley Paul A; Hartmann Katherine E; Abernethy Amy P
   *Racial differences in pain during 1 year among women with metastatic breast cancer: a hazards analysis of interval-censored data.*
   Cancer 2008;112(1):162-70.
   Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599, USA. liana@unc.edu

5. **2007**: Walker Tessa A; Howard Danielle; Washington Chanetta R; Godley Paul A
   *Development of a health sciences library at a historically black college and university (HBCU): laying the foundation for increased minority health and health disparities research.*
   The Institute for Health, Social, and Community Research, Shaw University, 900 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601, USA. twalker@shawu.edu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Publications</th>
<th>Number of Publications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4 out of 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1 out of 24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1 out of 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1 out of 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1 out of 90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>1 out of 64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>3 out of 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>1 out of 45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>1 out of 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>2 out of 35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>1 out of 32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>2 out of 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2007: Stookey JD; Barclay D; Arief A; Popkin BM

The altered fluid distribution in obesity may reflect plasma hypotonicity.
Pubmed Abstract

2006: Shapiro Jennifer R; Stout Ann A; Musante Gerard J

"Structure-size me:" weight and health changes in a four week residential program.
Eating behaviors. 2006;7(3):229-34.
Pubmed Abstract

2006: Bauche Isabelle B; Ait ElMkadem Samira; Rezohazy Rene; Funahashi Tohru; Maeda Norikazu; Miranda Lisa Miranda; Brichard Sonia M

Adiponectin downregulates its own production and the expression of its AdipoR2 receptor in transgenic mice.
Pubmed Abstract

2006: Harrell Joanne S; Jessup Ann; Greene Natasha

Changing our future: obesity and the metabolic syndrome in children and adolescents.
Pubmed Abstract

2005: North Kari E; Amsay Laura; Gorring Harald H H; Cole Shelley A; Diego Vincent P; Laston Sandra; Cantu Teresa; Williams Jeff T; Howard Barbara J; Lee Elsa T; Best Lyle G; Fabsitz Richard R; MacCluer Jean W